

# Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

## Office of Communications

*Working as One to Serve Central Oregon*

News and Information  
For Immediate Release  
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### Draft Environmental Impact Statement Scheduled For Release

CENTRAL OREGON—A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Prineville BLM administered public lands is scheduled to be available on October 17, 2003.

Referred to as the “Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan” (UDRMP), when completed, the plan will provide direction for the management of over 400,000 acres of public lands that lie between Lake Billy Chinook on the north to La Pine on the south, Sisters on the west and Prineville Reservoir to the east.

The BLM has developed their draft plan in cooperation with Deschutes County, the City of Redmond, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Oregon Military Department. Each of these entities have governmental and land management responsibilities within the planning area and will be using this environmental analysis to support their future decisions.

The draft plan analyzes seven alternatives for addressing the significant issues involved in managing public land close to several actively growing communities. These include ecosystem health and diversity, land uses (such as livestock grazing, forestry and military training), visual resources, recreation, transportation and utility rights-of-way, land ownership, public health and safety, archaeological resources and social/economic values.

A chartered group of local stakeholders representing a wide range of interests were actively involved in this process, helping to design the range of alternatives. The preferred alternative was based in part on consensus of these stakeholders. Issue team member Bob Davison stated, “While we reached consensus on many issues, there was also considerable disagreement. No one got exactly what they wanted, but the process was fair and open and should serve as a model for future planning efforts.”

The plan will direct how the BLM manages these lands into the future. Most of the residents who live in Central Oregon will be affected in some manner, whether it’s through their recreation interests, using a transportation route that crosses over BLM lands or public health and safety in the wildland/urban interface areas. According to Deschutes Resource Area Manager Robert Towne, “The preferred alternative represents what we think is a reasonable approach to balancing the often competing uses across the landscape.”

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Copies of the draft plan will be available in mid-October for public review and comment at the BLM District Office in Prineville, the Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office in Bend, the Deschutes Public Library branches in La Pine, Bend, Sisters and Redmond; at the BLM State Office in Portland and on the Prineville BLM website at: [http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes\\_RMP/Home.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm) Comment forms and project maps are also available on the website. The 90-day public comment period for the draft plan ends on January 15, 2004.

A series of informational public meetings will be held in conjunction with the release of the Draft EIS at the following times. The meetings allow additional opportunities for public review, comment and questions.

**November 12**, 7-9 p.m. (Wednesday)  
La Pine Middle School cafeteria  
16360 1<sup>st</sup> Street, La Pine

**November 18**, 7-9 p.m. (Tuesday)  
Carey Foster Hall  
590 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville

**November 19**, 7-9 p.m.(Wednesday)  
Redmond High School commons  
675 SW Rimrock Way, Redmond

**November 20**, 7-9 p.m.(Thursday)  
Highland (Kenwood) Elementary School  
701 NW Newport Ave, Bend

For more information on the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, visit our website at [http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes\\_RMP/Home.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm) or contact Mollie Chaudet, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754 at (541) 416-6872.

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